



HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
and
HOUSING MANAGER

for the year 1968

HORWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Councillor L. G. Fearnhead.

Members—Councillors E. Dobson, J.P., P. S. Hewitt, Mrs. G. Kay, L. Lowe, Mrs. R. Moss, R. Moss, A. Oakley, A. J. Ratcliffe, D. Smith, A. Wright, R. Yardley.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

§ E. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Telephone Leigh 73227/8/9.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager:

K. Ratcliffe, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health and Meat Inspector:

J. M. Lowe, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks:

Mrs. R. Brierley.

Mrs. D. McManus to November, 1968.

Mrs. M. Atherton from December, 1968.

§ Also Divisional Medical Officer;

Divisional Health Committee No. 11,

Lancashire County Council:

Divisional School Medical Officer;

Lancashire County Council:



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Public Health Department,
Public Hall,
Horwich

To the Chairman and Members of the
Horwich Urban District Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information and consideration, the annual report on the health of the District for the year 1968.

The Registrar General's estimate of population showed a continuation of the recent increases to a total of 16,540. The birth rate was the same as last year, but there were four infant deaths which increased the infant mortality rate to 15 - still well below the national rate.

There were no maternal deaths.

The total number of deaths was somewhat higher than last year (232 compared with 212) but the various causes remained in similar ratios.

Two ambitious projects which have for long been in anticipation were opened during the year - The Horwich Pool opened and at once seemed assured of the fullest appreciation by the townspeople and a block of 48 Warden supervised flats were tenanted for the first time. Known as Flockton Court the building is an example of redevelopment on a cleared site within easy reach of transport and the town centre, and will undoubtedly prove a boon to the towns elderly citizens in need of extra welfare help in their retirement. A further scheme, providing limited communal facilities, but providing very adequate warden supervision was agreed at Lower Claypool. This brought the total number of such units of accommodation in the district to 102.

The first Smoke Control Area was surveyed and received confirmation by the Ministry of Housing to become effective on 1st October, 1969.

The personal health services listed in Section B of this report have again been provided by the Lancashire County Council through its Divisional Health Administration Scheme. For full details of these services I would invite your attention to my report as Divisional Medical Officer.

In conclusion I am appreciative of the interest of members of the Committee and the Chief Officials and their staffs for the ready help and co-operation throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR,
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 3,254.

Population - Census 1961 (provisional) 16,067

Population - 1968* 16,540
(Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimates - 1968)

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1968)
according to Rate Books 5,942

Rateable Value £457,734

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £1,789

Social Conditions.—No material change.

Vital Statistics.—

(Rates calculated on a population basis of 16,540)

BIRTHS	Males.	Females.	Total
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Live Births:

Legitimate	146	106	252
Illegitimate	8	8	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	154	114	268
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000) 16.2

Still Births:

Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3	4	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) 25

Total Births: 275 Males 157. Females 118.

DEATHS

Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3	1	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	15.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks	
per 1,000 total live births) ...	15.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1	
week per 1,000 live births) ...	15.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under	
1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) ...	40.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	nil
	Male	Female	Total	
Deaths from all causes	106	126	232	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000				14.0
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 ...				14.4
Ratio of adjusted death rate to national rate				1.21
Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages) ...	—	—	—	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	
Deaths from Whooping Cough	—	—	—	
(all ages)				
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	21	17	38	
Rate per 1,000				2.3

Causes of Infant Deaths.

Cause of Death	under 1 day		1-7 days		1-4 weeks		1-6 months		6-12 months	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Prematurity	1		1							
Asphyxia		1								
Aspiration pneumonia	1									
Total	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics in respect of years 1963-1968

Year	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infantile Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. registered	Rate per 1000 Pop.	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births
1968	268	*16.2	232	*14.0	7	25.0	nil	nil	4	15.0	4	15.0
1967	269	16.5	212	13.0	3	11.0	1	3.68	2	7.0	nil	nil
1966	276	17.1	208	12.9	2	14.3	nil	nil	9	32.2	6	21.7
1965	240	14.9	205	12.7	2	36.1	nil	nil	7	32.2	4	21.7
1964	255	15.0	184	11.6	4	15.4	1	3.86	8	31.4	5	19.6
1963	257	15.8	220	13.5	4	15.3	nil	nil	8	31.1	7	27.2
Ave. 5 yrs 1963-67		15.8		12.7		18.4		1.50		26.6		18.0

* Adjusted birth rate (comparability factor 1.08) = 17.4 per 1000

* Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.03) = 14.4 per 1000

The following table shows the causes of death at different periods of life during 1968.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over	
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	1									1			
Other infective and parasitic diseases	F												1	
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	M	1												
	F	3								1			2	
Malignant Neoplasm - Bronchus	M	2									1		1	
	F	8								2	2	3	1	
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	M	1								1				
	F	4					1				1	1	1	
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	M													
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	F	1							1	1				
	M	10								1	1	5	2	
	F	9							1		1	4	3	
	M											1		
Anaemas	F	1										1		
	M	1												
Other diseases of nervious system, etc.	M	2											2	
	F	2				1						1		
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	1										1		
	F	2						1					1	
Hypertensive disease	M	1									1			
	F	4										1	3	
Ishaemic heart disease	M	28							2	1	7	11	7	
	F	25									4	8	13	
Other forms of heart disease	M	2									1		1	
	F	6											6	
Cerebrovascular disease	M	15								1	2	5	7	
	F	28				1				1		5	21	
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	5								1		2	2	
	F	17									1	2	15	
Influenza	M	1												
	F													
Pneumonia	M	3	1									1	1	
	F	5											5	
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	8									1	6	1	
	F	5									1		4	
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	4										2	2	
	F	1											1	
Peptic Ulcer	M	2									1	1		
	F	1										1		
Cirrhosis of liver	M													
	F	2									1		1	
Other diseases of digestive system	M													
	F	2										1	1	
Diseases of musculo- skeletal system	M													
	F	1											1	
Congenital anomalies	M													
	F	1												
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	M	1	1											
	F	1	1											
Other causes of prenatal mortality	M	1	1											
	F													
Symptoms and ill- defined conditions	M													
	F	1											1	
Motor vehicle accidents	M	1					1							
	F													
All other accidents	M	3								1	1	1		
	F	3											3	
Suicide and self- inflicted injuries	M	4								1	1		2	
	F													
All other external causes	M													
	F	1									1			
Total all causes	M	106	3			3	1		3	9	20	39	31	
	F	126	1					1	2	3	10	25	81	

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service, Swinton 4343.

Care of Children - Children Act 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.

Area No. 4.

Area Children's Officer - Mr. K. R. Harding,

Ashfield Park Drive, Standish. Tel. Standish 3147.

Clinics.

1. Ante-natal.

Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.

Tuesday p.m.

2. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis
Immunisation.

Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.

By appointment.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.

Wednesday and Thursday p.m.

St. Elizabeth's Mission.

Friday p.m. (1st and 3rd only).

4. Ophthalmic.

School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.

By appointment.

5. Orthopædic.

School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.

1st Friday each month.

6. Post-natal.

Welfare Centre, Jones Street, Horwich.

Tuesday p.m.

7. School Health and Minor Ailment.

School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.

Monday p.m.

8. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic.

Civic Centre, Bolton.

9. Venereal Diseases.

(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males - Mon. to Fri. 9-30 to 12-30 p.m.

Mon., Wed., Fri. 4-30 to 7 p.m.

Females - Tues., Thurs., Sat. 9-30 to 11-30 a.m.

Mon., Wed., Fri. 4-30 to 7 p.m.

- (ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.
 Males - Friday 2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.
 Females - Wednesday 2-0 p.m. to 6-0 p.m.

Urgent Cases:

Mon. to Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sats. 9 to 11-30 a.m.
 4-30 p.m. to 7-0 p.m.

Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.
 Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board.

Health Visiting Service.

Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the district by Lancs. C.C.

Home Help Service.

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.
 Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service.

District Nurses are employed in the district by Lancs. C.C.

Hospitals.

Bolton Royal Infirmary; Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth; Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; and other hospitals situated in the region of the Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries.

Maternity Homes.

"Haslam," "Havercroft," and "Heaton Grange" Maternity Homes, Bolton, and Bolton District General Hospital.

Midwifery Service.

Domiciliary midwives employed by the Lancs. C.C. practice in the district.

Nursing Homes.

Newlands Nursing Home, Bolton.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire County Council.

Council for Moral Welfare Work.

Moral Welfare Worker for the area:-

Miss A. Rigby,
24, Acresfield,
Bolton. Tel. Bolton 26524.

Welfare Services.

Under arrangements made by Lancs. C.C.

Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.
Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange,
Hourigan House, Leigh and Winifred Kettle House,
Westhoughton.

X-ray Facilities.

Available at Bolton Royal Infirmary and the Wigan
Infirmary. Special facilities for chest X-ray at the
Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

SECTION C.**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

Water Supply.—Apart from 30 houses situated in the higher parts of the town all of the dwelling houses in the town are provided with water from public mains.

There were 84 samples of water taken for bacteriological and chemical examination. The results of these were as follows:-

Examinations from public supply.

No. taken	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
45	45	nil

Examinations from private supply.

No. taken	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
37	22	15

The unsatisfactory samples from private supplies proved satisfactory on resampling.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Only extensions to new properties have been made during the year.

Public Cleansing.—During the year the following work was carried out by the Department:-

Tons of refuse collected and disposed of	6,665
No. of dustbins and paper sacks collected	527,110
No. of pail closets emptied	1,768

With the continuation of the task system the staff difficulties have been kept to a minimum this year. The collections were greatly helped by the introduction of a Shelvoke and Drewery 35 cu.yd. Pakamatic vehicle in September.

With a redistribution of the rounds and the introduction of a further 1,500 bin liners it was found possible—staff availability permitting—to utilise the third vehicle for special collections on two days each week. This vehicle, the 18 cu.yd. fore and aft tipper, with a driver and two men are able to carry out the additional requirements placed on the local authority by the Civic Amenities Act which requires Councils to arrange for the collection of extraordinary articles, e.g., furniture, etc.

The staff remains at three drivers and eleven men deployed between three vehicles as follows:—

35 cu.yd. S. and D. driver and 5

18 cu.yd Karrier driver and 2

20 cu.yd S. and D. driver and 4

There are now some two and a half thousand houses using either the paper sack or plastic bin liner method of refuse storage and this has considerably assisted the staff and proved to be a hygienic method of storing and handling refuse.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on an extensive peat moss and a Weatherill loading shovel is used for controlling the tip. The total cost of refuse disposal was £925 during the year. This low cost was due to an amount credited for tipping of motorway spoil.

The overall cost of collections and disposal was £21,750. The approximate cost per ton of refuse being £3 5s 1d which compares with £3 3s 3d. for 1967. The approximate cost of each bin or sack collected remained at 10d.

Sanitary Inspections.—During the year the Department received some 830 complaints relating to all matters including refuse removal and housing repair. Throughout the year 3,087 premises were visited for all purposes and 7,210 inspections were made. The following is a classified statement of inspections excluding Council house repairs:—

Housing defects and nuisances	649
House letting	574
Drainage	431
Refuse removal and disposal	976
Scrap metal dealers	5
Verminous or dirty premises	17
Infectious diseases	21
Animal boarding establishments	1
Factories	75
Smoke abatement	457
Improvement grants	338
Bakehouses	125
Slum clearance	69
Ice cream premises	13
Hotels	9
Food shops and food stalls	247
Schools	8
School canteens	1
Meat inspection	248
Shops Act inspection	83
Market	201
Market supplies	74
Offices, shops and railway premises	115
Rodent control	1960
Keeping of animals	9
Farms	4
Fairground stalls	1
Milk sampling and premises	23
Hospital canteens	2
Miscellaneous	474

As a result of these inspections 1,491 defects or nuisances were discovered during the year and 1,402 were abated.

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959.—In accordance with the provisions of Section 128(3) of the Factories Act, 1937, the Medical Officer of Health is required to report specifically on the administration of matters under Parts 1 and 8 of this Act, which are administered by the District Council.

PART I OF THE ACT.
INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	62	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	12	10	—	—
Total ...	75	75	—	—

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1		1	
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	2	3		1	
(c) Not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..					
Total ...	3	4		2	

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.—There were seventeen outworkers notified as being employed in the district and these were visited during the year.

Shops.—Shops were inspected under the Shops Act and minor infringements were remedied. 99 inspections were carried out for this purpose.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.—The following is a statement showing the numbers and types of premises registered and the inspections made during the year:

Class of premises.	No. of premises registered during the year	No. of premises registered at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	16	5
Retail Shops	9	83	46
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	3	—
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	—	5	1
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
Totals	10	107	52

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises under the Act - 115.

The following table gives an analysis of the contraventions discovered during inspections:—

Section	No. of contraventions found	Section	No. of contraventions found
4 Cleanliness	6	16 Floors, passages and stairs	2
5 Overcrowding		17 Fencing exposed machinery	
6 Temperature... ..	9	18 Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery...	
7 Ventilation	2	19 Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	9
8 Lighting			8
9 Sanitary Conveniences	7	23 Prohibition of heavy work	
10 Washing facilities ...	4	24 First Aid	
11 Supply of drinking water	1	Other matters	
12 Clothing accommodation			
13 Sitting facilities... ..			
14 Seats (Sedentary workers)			
15 Eating facilities			
		TOTAL	48

Camping sites.—One site situated in the Heather Hall district has been in existence for many years and is not subject to Town Planning approval. This is only seldom in use.

Smoke Control.—During the year the town's first Smoke Control Area was designated and confirmed by the Ministry of Housing without an inquiry.

The area is bounded by Church Street and Chorley Old Road from the junction with Victoria Road to Chapel Lane. The west side of Chapel Lane to Ainsworth Avenue, along the North side of Brunswick Avenue to Nellie's Clough thence to Victoria Road; the North side of Victoria Road to Church Street.

It contains 510 premises and covers 302 acres. The Order becomes operative on the 1st October, 1969.

There are two stations recording air pollution situated at the coop on Chorley New Road opposite the Railway Mechanics' Institute - No. 2 and one at the Public Hall - No. 1. The following table shows the results recorded during the year.

Daily Average.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
(a) Smoke particles (microgrammes per cu. metre)												
Station No. 1	227	214	181	137	111	65	36	51	70	140	194	221
Station No. 2	244	238	152	128	131	57	43	38	56	124	173	261
(b) Sulphur Dioxide (microgrammes per cu. metre)												
Station No. 1	140	242	189	127	121	88	51	75	83	135	252	233
Station No. 2	130	222	157	118	105	70	40	44	39	87	97	154

Observations have been kept on factory chimneys and visits made to factories when managements have been kept informed of their responsibilities under the Clean Air Act.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses.—None registered.

Houses Let in Lodgings.—None Registered.

Swimming Baths.—The town opened a new swimming bath during the latter part of the year.

The main pool is 25 metres long and 42 feet wide and is recognised by the Amateur Swimming Association for competitive events up to County Standard. The depth varies from three feet at the shallow end to 10 feet at the deep end to accommodate facilities for a one metre spring board. There is also a learners pool 42 feet long by 20 feet wide with wide steps providing easy access and a depth from 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet.

Changing rooms are immediately adjacent to the pool hall and give facilities for group changing (school classes, etc.) and cubical changing (52 male and 36 female) catering for a maximum of 314 bathers.

Spectators access is from the Main Entrance Hall via the Cafeteria on to a balcony with tip up seating for 158 persons.

The heating for the pool, hall and changing areas is provided by two oil-fired boilers each rated at 1,500,000 Btu/hr.

The plant maintains the Pool Hall at 78°F and provides five air changes per hour with six air changes per hour in the changing rooms which are maintained at 70°F.

The filtration plant provides warm, filtered, sterilised water to the two Pools. The water is filtered through vertical sand filters, chemically treated with alum and soda and maintained at break point chlorination.

The temperature of both Pools is maintained at 80°F the main Pool having a turn over rate of four hours and the learners' pool a turn over rate of 1½ hours.

Disinfestation.—One infestation by bed bugs of a private house was discovered and successfully treated.

Cockroaches remain the main household pest and fourteen houses were treated for these insects during the year.

Disinfestation for cockroaches is carried out by using a pybuthrin powder.

Schools.—The standard of washing and drinking facilities is very satisfactory and at the majority of the schools meals are prepared on the premises in modern, well equipped and hygienic kitchens. At the schools where kitchens are not available meals are brought in from a central kitchen.

Rag, Flock, and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.—No premises have been registered under the Act.

Rodent Control.—All complaints have been investigated by the Rodent Operator and in some instances by the Public Health Inspector. The following table shows the work carried out in treating surface infestations:-

	Type of Property	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
No. of properties in the district	6843	22
Total number of properties inspected following notification	225	—
No. of properties notified infested by rats	178	—
No. of properties notified infested by mice	47	—
Total number of properties inspected for rats/mice for reasons other than notification	1259	16
No. of properties inspected for other reasons found to be infested by rats	—	—
No. of properties inspected for other reasons found to be infested by mice	—	—

In addition to the above work the town's sewers were treated throughout the year with fluoroacetamide.

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—40 samples of milk were submitted for analysis to determine the presence of brucellosis and five for keeping quality. The results were as follows:—

	Positive	Negative
Ring test	13	27
Culture test	2	11

Methylene Blue Test—5 samples proved satisfactory.

Ice Cream.—There are 2 persons registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 58 premises registered for the sale of ice cream under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1939.

These premises have been regularly inspected and are kept in a satisfactory condition. During the year 9 samples were taken. In the case of unsatisfactory samples premises and equipment were checked and further samples taken.

Food Hygiene.—The total number of inspections during the year was 454 which included inspections of vehicles carrying food. Generally conditions were found to be good and it was not found necessary to institute proceedings, it being sufficient to draw attention to contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and to follow this up with further visits.

The following tables show the number of premises (by type) selling food in the district together with those registered under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act:-

(a) Number of food shops.

Type of business.	No.
General grocers	56
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, poultry, etc.)	12
Meat Shops	15
Bakers and confectioners	11
Fried fish shops	9
Sweet shops (including ice cream and minerals)	18
Licensed premises, clubs, cafes, snack bars and catering establishments	18

(b) Food premises registered (excluding dairies).

Type of business	No. registered	No. of inspections
Fish, fruit and vegetables	2	201
Ice cream	60	
Preserved meats	21	
Preserved fish	9	

Food Poisoning.—There were no cases of food poisoning notified.

Food Condemned.—The following tinned meat and other foods were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

Cooked meats and meat products	44 lbs.
Tinned meats	63 lbs.
Tinned fish	65 lbs.
Other tinned foods	109 lbs.
Other tinned foods	5 lbs.

The forementioned condemned food was disposed of by controlled tipping.

Shell Fish.—There are no shell fish beds or layings in the district.

Slaughter of Animals.—There is one privately owned slaughterhouse in the district which conforms to the Slaughterhouse Construction Regulations. All meat inspected at this slaughterhouse has been marked in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 and one hundred per cent inspection has been maintained.

The following tables show the number of animals killed and inspected together with details of the diseases found:-

Table 1—Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed (if known)	82	397	5	1218	—	—
No. inspected	82	397	5	1218	—	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—		2	3		—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		208		217	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci		43%	40%	18%	—	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcass condemned	—			—	—	—
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	0.2%	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—		—	—	—

During the course of these inspections 3,221 lbs. of meat and offals were condemned.

SECTION E.

HOUSING.

As from 1st April, 1968 the Department took over the responsibility for repairs and maintenance of all Council houses and became the Public Health and Housing Department.

The staff of the Department was accordingly increased by an additional clerk and technical assistance on the housing side. The housing foreman and all building trades operatives joined the department from the Surveyor.

This addition has produced a considerable amount of administration work particularly regarding the receipt of complaints and during the nine months to the end of December 1,440 complaints in respect of Council house repairs were received.

All of these complaints were investigated but not all of the required works were completed by the end of the year as it is necessary to give priority to the more structurally important items. 1,184 visits were made by office based staff to carry out investigations.

In addition to the routine repairs the following major items of maintenance continued:—

Replacement of defective window frames on the Brazley and Hilton Estates. Re-rendering of 18 houses on the Brazley Estate and 16 on the Hilton Estate.

External painting of 242 houses and flats at Higher Claypool, Ormston, Old Lords and Hilton Estates.

Internal decorating of houses on the Hilton Estate.

As regards the last item the Council's new policy of decorating the interiors of houses occupied only by pensioners—with certain other possible categories—was put into practice for the first time.

It must be stressed that the works enumerated above were in hand at the time of the "take over" and it will not be until the following year that a proper assessment of the result of the change can be made.

During the year under review the Council embarked on an improvement scheme at 34 old people's bungalows situated on the Old Lords Estate. The scheme involves the partial reconstruction of the interiors of the bungalows, the renewal of the

baths, washbasins, w.c.'s and kitchen equipment and the installation of oil-fired central heating. The fuel supply is from a communal storage tank provided by Messrs. Shell Mex and B.P. Ltd.

The rate of dealing with unfit houses was accelerated by and in the declaration of the East of Winter Hey Lane Clearance Area containing 60 houses.

The following items show in detail the work carried out during the year under review:-

(a) Inspection of dwelling houses—

No. of dwelling houses inspected for defects	1182
No. of inspections made	1831
No. of dwelling houses inspected found to have defects	486
No. of dwelling houses, including those found to be defective prior to 1966, where defects were remedied	486

(b) Slum Clearance—

No. of houses represented in Clearance Areas	14
No. of houses demolished after inclusion in Clearance Areas	14
No. of houses demolished as a result of action under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1937	28
No. of houses closed under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1957	16
No. of families displaced and rehoused by the Council as a result of slum clearance	26

Improvement of older houses.—The following tables show the extent of this work during 1968.

(a) Improvement Grants—

No. of applications received.		No. of applications approved.		No. of houses Improved.	
Owner Occupier	Tenanted	Owner Occupier	Tenanted	Owner Occupier	Tenanted
6	1	6	1	5	1

(b) Standard Grants—

No. applica- tions received		No. applica- tions approved		No. houses improved		Amenities provided				
Owner Occu- pier	Tenan- ted	Owner Occu- pier	Tenan- ted	Owner Occu- pier	Tenan- ted	Fixed bath	Wash- hand basin	Hot water supply	Inside W.C.	Food Store
60	3	57	2	34	1	17	17	17	34	32

The result of these works together with that carried out in previous years is the modernisation of 264 houses. Again this cannot be considered a satisfactory response to the legislation on this subject although this is not peculiar to this Authority who have made every effort to assist householders in the pursuance of this scheme.

A survey of the district has been carried out in accordance with the Housing Act 1964 to ascertain the number and location of properties which do not have full amenities. This has shown a very high percentage of owner occupiers in all areas where improvement would be possible and under present legislation such owners would not be required to instal the required amenities.

House Building.—A total of 120 houses were completed by private builders during the year.

House Letting.—At the 31st December, 1968 there were 498 applicants on the Council's general housing list, which is 11 more than the previous year. The number was made up as follows:-

Applicants living in rooms	87
Applicants overcrowded in separate accommodation (by rehousing standards)	34
Applicants living out of Horwich	70
Miscellaneous applicants	307

Included in the miscellaneous category are 70 applicants who are also separately listed amongst 182 applicants for old persons accommodation. This category of applicants remains the most persistent in the search for smaller accommodation but shows a decrease of 68 over last year. Of these applicants 56 are awaiting Warden Supervised accommodation.

The Council has to date accommodated old people in 175 flats and bungalows which are so situated as to be satisfactory for applicants included in this category.

During the year the special block of flats at Flockton Court built to house old people in need of Warden supervision was completed and occupied. This has brought the number of units of this type of accommodation to 82 with a communication system about to be installed in a further 20 bungalows and flats at Claypool where a Warden is to be installed when this has been completed.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria.—There were no cases notified.

Encephalitis.—No case reported.

Erysipelas.—No case reported.

Malaria.—No case reported.

Measles.—11 cases were reported as against 21 in the previous year.

Meningococcal Infection.—No case reported.

Paratyphoid Fever. No case reported.

Pneumonia.—No case reported.

Poliomyelitis.—No case occurred.

Scarlet Fever.—2 cases were reported.

Smallpox (Variola).—No case occurred.

Tuberculosis.—There were 3 new pulmonary cases notified and one death from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during the year.

Typhoid Fever.—No case.

Whooping Cough.—No case was reported.

Infective Jaundice.—47 cases were reported.

